

United Tribes Session – Comments From Participants

Awareness of Focus Group

- Letter in the mail
- Classroom
- Email that an instructor had received

III. Accessing Information About Programs/Services

- Doctor at the clinic
- Pursue ourselves
- Instructors
- Student Health clinic on campus
- Occasional pamphlet
- West Central Human Service Center
- No help at all at Fort Yates
- Negative feelings about Bismarck Social Services
- Child had to go to foster care (PATH Family Services)
 - they helped find programs, but it's hard for them to go out on a limb and do something different
- I had to go to the reservation to find services
- It's hard if you don't know where to go or what to do

Improvements to be made

- should be something for Native American families from reservations, they are willing to take our kids away and no advance notice that you have to pay
- it cost \$17,000 for child to be taken away for 11 months and had to pay that to Prairie Learning Center
- they don't tell you the negative side of things
- they don't tell you certain meds can affect the jobs you can get – nephew can't get into military
- need more awareness about children with behavioral problems – then the law gets a hold of them and it's too late
- more information about how to cope with children with behavioral problems
- most Native Americans don't realize the care that is needed for these children
- needs to be a packet for parents that contains information about what to expect, sign and symptoms of the special needs
- a hotline for parents to call and have one-on-one contact
- need to utilize the same people you already have – don't need new programs – just be there for the parents
- may kids have been misdiagnosed
- we have parent night classes for ADHD but no one knows anything about ODD
- we have a bad stereotype in Bismarck as either drunks or hell-raisers – social services gives this impression to us
- should be a Native American program so we are not looked down upon
- parents need a helper to help them out with the day to day activities
- **people understand from people, not documents**

Additional Suggestions For Improvement

- An Outreach program would be very helpful
- We need structure from a professional or other parents (support group)
- One lady has a really good case worker, so she is never looked down upon
- One lady says she despises the Bismarck Social Services
- We need Native American communication – they don't have cultural sensitivity they make you repeat yourself over Andover to explain yourself
- Social Services are unclear about what is going on
- Social Services employees said discriminating remarks against Native Americans
- Prejudice feelings are there – based on stereotypes
- Approach of the Social Services is by the book and no care and cultural sensitivity
- No leeway and immediately get out the paperwork for foster care
- They need to have a Native American working in the Social Services office
 - parents would feel more welcome to attend with a Native American professional working in the office

Indian Health Services

- I would prefer to go to IHS than local clinic – we should have one in Bismarck – they have one in Rapid City
- IHS is more welcoming to us
- IHS in Fort Yates refers you back up to Bismarck
- This would be good for relations between Native Americans Doctors and Bismarck Doctors
- Dr. Baker and Dr. Tincher at FMCN – I'm comfortable around them – can be truthful with them – they know where you're coming from

Children's Special Health Services (CSHS)

- No one aware of the unit
- Different nationality working there – diversity
- Someone needs to work there that will do something for Native Americans
- It is hard for Native Americans to say what is on their minds

Services Which Are Lacking

- Asthma care and information
- Asthma support group
 - reassuring to the kids, but who reassures the parents
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder information
- Big Brother/Big Sister and Youthworks – must wait at least 2 years to be in the program
 - age limitations for these support group
 - need more programs like these for all ages
- We need a go-between person
- Anger management classes
- More awareness of drugs and their effects – more education
- Need to be support groups for parents and families
- A good source of reliable information and more resources

One Change

- More Native American support
- Reduced waiting times
- More prescription choices for their children
- One mother can't work because she would go over the limit
- This keeps the parent on welfare
- Vicious cycle
- There is a lot of information out there and programs, but sometimes it's hard to find it
- It's a lot of work to get help for children with special needs
- They have different standards – Native Americans have our own parenting skills

***Those in attendance commented that a possible reason why not many Native Americans showed up for the meeting is because they feel that they are looked down upon already and then to have a child with a special need they are looked down upon even more. They also may feel that no change ever comes from these meetings, so why come waste their time.